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LB 305, 543

however.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this amendment is in keeping with the principles I've articulated about doing what I could to make sure that expenditures of money for education go to the public schools. I have to tie that in to my objection to LB 305. I'm in favor of a very strong public school system. It is absolutely essential for a society which calls itself a democracy. It's essential for any society and is especially necessary for those groups who ordinarily are left behind. But when that public school system takes on the characteristics of that society which shows that it wants to leave certain children behind, that public school system becomes a target that has to be corrected. It cannot be allowed to do wrongful things. And it cannot get exemption because somebody like me says we need a strong public school system. I am not going to strengthen the system so that it can gobble up my children. That's not what I will do. I will try to correct the system, so that it functions as it should. That's why when we have different aspects of the matter before us, such as whether this money we spend on education is going to public schools or private schools, where should it go? My principles don't vary. That money should go to the public schools and I will stand for that and I will fight for that. And I will do everything I can to stop money from going to these private schools. Senator Beutler said a bill should be brought in to repeal the PEAP program and I agree with him, but I'm going one step further. Senator Beutler, I'm going to go in my own pocket and challenge that program in court. How many senators are willing to do that when no constituent asked them to do it, when they don't stand to gain anything personally from it? How many will do it? I've done it several times because my principles carry me that far, and I'm probably the closest to being impoverished of anybody on the floor of the Legislature. So when I think something is hurtful to public education, I'm going to fight it in every way that I can with whatever limited resources I possess. The only resource I have at this point is to offer amendments and my voice to try to spotlight the